

Patent Specification

for

Candle Carrier for use with Candle Accessories burning Tea Light Candles

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Cross Reference to Related Applications

[001] This application is a Non-Provisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 60/401,929 filed 8/8/2003

Field of the invention

[002] This invention relates to accessories for use with candles.

Background of the invention

[003] Tea light candles are widely used with decorative holders, lamps, scent burners and the like which partially enclose the candle, isolating the flame from persons and nearby articles for enhanced safety, and helping prevent the flame from being extinguished by air drafts. The tea candle itself typically consists of a metallic or plastic container which holds the candle wax, allowing it to liquefy without spilling.

[004] Movement of the candle poses a risk to the user because, when the candle is heated, the liquefied wax retains heat for a prolonged period after it is extinguished. When an attempt is made to remove the candle from the accessory in which it is mounted by hand, the user may burn his or her fingers, causing pain and/or injury.

Summary of the invention

[005] The present invention takes the form of a tea light candle carrier and the method for using the carrier to prevent injury that might otherwise occur when an attempt is made to remove a hot candle from a candle accessory, such as a scent burner or lamp

[006] As contemplated by the invention, in order to more safely replace a tea light candle in a candle accessory, a candle carrier is provided that consists of a tray that forms a receptacle sized to receive and hold a tea light candle, and a handle extending outwardly from the receptacle. A replaceable tea light candle is placed in the carrier tray and the carrier and candle is inserted into the candle accessory by manually grasping the handle. Thereafter, the carrier and candle are removed from the accessory by manually grasping the handle and removing the carrier and candle

from the accessory. The method eliminates the need to touch the candle itself during removal and thereby protects the user against being burned when the candle is still hot.

[007] The candle carrier consists of a candle receptacle and a handle attached to and extending outwardly from the receptacle. The receptacle is sized to receive and laterally support a standard tea light candle and the outwardly extending handle is shaped so that it can be easily grasped and held by hand as the candle and tray are inserted into and removed from the candle accessory.

[008] The carrier is preferably formed into a unitary molded shape from a non-flammable material that does not readily conduct heat, such as a molded ceramic, preferably glazed to facilitate cleaning.

[009] These and other features and advantages of the invention may be more clearly understood by considering the following detailed description and the accompanying drawings.

Brief description of the drawings

[010] Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a candle transport carrier and a scent burner which receives and houses the carrier and candle, and

[011] Fig. 2 is a close-up view of the candle carrier.

Detailed description

[012] In order to more safely remove a tea light candle from an accessory, such as a scent burner indicated generally at 100 in Fig. 1, or a tea lamp or other candle burning accessory that accepts standard tea light candles. The present invention utilizes a candle carrier indicated generally at 101, a transport device called a "Safety-T-Spoon," that may be used to easily insert standard tea light candle into the accessory and safely remove the candle from the accessory, even when it is hot.

[013] As shown in the drawings, the Safety-T-Spoon carrier 101 consists of a candle support tray 103 to which an outwardly and upwardly extending handle 105 is attached. The support tray 103 has a circular "floor" that has a diameter slightly larger than the 1.5 inch outside diameter of a standard tea light candle 110 as shown in Fig. 2. A raised rim 107 around the periphery of the circular tray 103 forms a well which receives and retains the tea light candle 110. The distal end of the handle 105 is shaped to form a vertically oriented flange. The lateral sides of

the outer flange portion of the handle 105 may be easily grasped by the fingers to maintain the horizontal orientation of the floor of the tray 103 to support the candle 110 as the tray and candle are moved in and out of a candle accessory such as the scent burner seen at 100 in Fig. 1.

[014] The candle carrier 101 is preferably formed as a unitary shaped piece of ceramic or other suitable material which is both sturdy and heat resistant and conducts heat poorly. The outer surface of the carrier is preferably covered with a glaze or enamel to provide a smooth, glossy, easy-to-clean surface to which candle wax does not readily adhere. The candle carrier is particularly suited for use in combination with a scent burner, tea lamp or similar accessory which includes an opening 120 through which the candle and holder are inserted as shown in Fig. 2. The candle carrier may be marketed with the accessory, or sold separately for use with one or more existing accessories.

[015] **Conclusion**

[016] It is to be understood that the methods and apparatus which have been described above are merely illustrative applications of the principles of the invention. Numerous modifications may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention.